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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A multi-layer wound dressing comprising:  
a first absorbent layer with an absorbency greater than 300 percent and containing the reaction product of a hydrophilic, ethylenically unsaturated monomer; and  
a second absorbent non-disintegrating layer in contact with the first absorbent layer and less absorbent of body fluids than the first absorbent layer;  
wherein the wound dressing is configured to be positioned on a patient's wound such that the second absorbent layer is between the first absorbent layer and the wound; and wherein the second absorbent layer is substantially insoluble in water.
2. (original) The multi-layer wound dressing of claim 1, wherein the first absorbent layer comprises less than 10 percent by weight water prior to application to a patient.
3. (original) The multi-layer wound dressing of claim 1, wherein the first absorbent layer is substantially insoluble in water.
- 4 (canceled)
5. (original) The multi-layer wound dressing of claim 1, wherein the first absorbent layer comprises the reaction product of the hydrophilic, ethylenically unsaturated monomer; an acrylic acid ester of a non-tertiary alcohol having 4 to 14 carbon atoms; and a polar, ethylenically unsaturated monomer.
6. (original) The multi-layer wound dressing of claim 5, wherein the non-tertiary alcohol has from 6 to 12 carbon atoms.

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7. (original) The multi-layer wound dressing of claim 5, wherein the first absorbent layer comprises the reaction product of about 30 to 100 parts by weight of the hydrophilic, ethylenically unsaturated monomer; about 0 to 30 parts by weight of the acrylic acid ester of a non-tertiary alcohol having from 4 to 14 carbon atoms; and about 0 to 40 parts by weight of the polar, ethylenically unsaturated monomer.

8. (original) The multi-layer wound dressing of claim 5, wherein the first absorbent layer comprises the reaction product of about 50 to 80 parts by weight of the hydrophilic, ethylenically unsaturated monomer; about 5 to 30 parts by weight of the acrylic acid ester of a non-tertiary alcohol having from 4 to 14 carbon atoms; and about 10 to 30 parts by weight of the polar, ethylenically unsaturated monomer.

9. (original) The multi-layer wound dressing of claim 1, wherein the second absorbent layer comprises the reaction product of an acrylic acid ester of a non-tertiary alcohol having from 4 to 14 carbon atoms; a hydrophilic, ethylenically unsaturated monomer; and a polar, ethylenically unsaturated monomer.

10. (original) The multi-layer wound dressing of claim 9, wherein the second absorbent layer comprises the reaction product of about 45 to 80 parts by weight of the acrylic acid ester of a non-tertiary alcohol having from 4 to 14 carbon atoms; about 25 to 40 parts by weight of the hydrophilic, ethylenically unsaturated monomer; and about 2 to 20 parts by weight of the polar, ethylenically unsaturated monomer.

11. (original) The multi-layer wound dressing of claim 1, wherein the first absorbent layer has an absorbency at least 100 percent greater than the absorbency of the second absorbent layer.

12. (original) The multi-layer wound dressing of claim 5, wherein the polar, ethylenically unsaturated monomer comprises N-vinyl acetamide.

13. (original) The multi-layer wound dressing of claim 5, wherein the polar, ethylenically unsaturated monomer comprises partially neutralized acrylic acid.

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14. (original) The multi-layer wound dressing of claim 1, wherein the second absorbent layer has an absorbency of at least about 50 percent.

15. (original) The multi-layer wound dressing of claim 14, wherein the second absorbent layer has an absorbency of at least 80 percent.

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (original) The multi-layer wound dressing of claim 1, wherein the dressing is substantially transparent.

19. (original) The multi-layer dressing of claim 1, wherein the dressing is cutable.

20. (original) The multi-layer wound dressing of claim 1, further comprising a wound-facing layer.

21. (original) The multi-layer wound dressing of claim 20, wherein the wound-facing layer is perforated.

22. (original) The multi-layer wound dressing of claim 1, wherein the second absorbent layer is adhesive.

23-29. (canceled)

30. (currently amended) A multi-layer wound dressing comprising:

a first absorbent layer having an absorbency of greater than 300 percent and containing less than 10 percent by weight water before application to a patient; and

a second absorbent layer having an absorbency of less than 50 percent of the absorbency of the first absorbent layer;

wherein the wound dressing is configured to be positioned on a patient such that the second absorbent layer is between the first absorbent layer and the wound; and

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wherein the second absorbent layer is substantially insoluble in water.

31. (original) The multi-layer wound dressing of claim 30, wherein the absorbency of the second absorbent layer is at least 50 percent.

32. (original) The multi-layer wound dressing of claim 30, wherein the second absorbent layer is adhesive.

33. (original) The multi-layer wound dressing of claim 30, wherein the wound dressing is transparent.

34. (original) The multi-layer wound dressing of claim 30, wherein the first absorbent layer has an absorbency of at least 400 percent.

35. (original) The multi-layer wound dressing of claim 30, further comprising an apertured wound-facing layer with a first side in contact with the second absorbent layer and a second side containing an apertured wound-facing adhesive layer.

36. (original) The multi-layer wound dressing of claim 30, further comprising a backing.

37. (original) The multi-layer wound dressing of claim 30, wherein the dressing is cutable.

38. (original) The multi-layer wound dressing of claim 30, wherein the first absorbent layer is from 10 to 50 mils thick.

39. (original) The multi-layer wound dressing of claim 30, whercin the second absorbent layer is from 2 to 4 mils thick.

40. (original) The multi-layer wound dressing of claim 30, wherein the first absorbent layer is from 2 to 15 times as thick as the second absorbent layer.

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41. (original) The multi-layer wound dressing of claim 30, wherein the first absorbent layer comprises the reaction product of about 5 to 30 parts by weight of an acrylic acid ester of a non-tertiary alcohol having from 4 to 14 carbon atoms; about 50 to 80 parts by weight of a hydrophobic, ethylenically unsaturated monomer; and about 10 to 30 parts by weight of a polar, ethylenically unsaturated monomer.

42. (original) The multi-layer wound dressing of claim 30, further comprising a wound-facing film having apertures having a total void area between 1 and 20 percent.

43. (original) The multi-layer wound dressing of claim 42, wherein the wound-facing film has a void area between 4 and 10 percent.

44. (original) The multi-layer wound dressing of claim 42, wherein the apertures have an average diameter less than the combined thickness of the first and second absorbent layers.

45-55 (canceled)